



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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It's the law . . .

Youth ATV Riders Must Take Safety Course

SACRAMENTO – Cool weather signifies the start of the off-highway riding season in the California desert.

But whether it's desert or year-round riding, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks reminds the state's youth and their parents that under California State Law they are required to take an ATV Safety course to legally ride an all-terrain vehicle (ATV).

State law says in part:

No person under the age of 18 years shall operate an all-terrain vehicle on public lands of this state unless the person satisfies one of the following conditions:

- The person is taking a prescribed safety training course under the direct supervision of a certified all-terrain vehicle safety instructor.
- The person is under the direct supervision of an adult who has in their possession an appropriate safety certificate issued by this state, or issued under the authority of another state.
- The person has in possession an appropriate safety certificate issued by this state or issued under the authority of another state.

Further, no person under 14 years of age shall operate an all-terrain vehicle on public lands of this state unless the person satisfies one of the conditions set forth above and, in addition, is accompanied by, and under the direct supervision of, a parent or guardian, or is accompanied by and under the direct supervision of an adult who is authorized by the parent or guardian.

The ATV RiderCourse, offered by the ATV Safety Institute, provides a half-day, hands-on training session which includes pre-ride inspection, starting and stopping, turns, negotiating hills, emergency stopping and riding over obstacles. Youth also learn about proper protective gear, local regulations, places to ride and environmentally responsible riding concerns.

Through a partnership with the OHMVR Division, the ATV RiderCourse is provided free of charge for California youth ages 6-16. Some sites provide ATV's and equipment. Students may be

certified as observers if their ATV is not in compliance with the size/age regulations indicated by the label on the ATV.

Courses are scheduled throughout the state, including the desert area.

For registration and information about the ATV RiderCourse, see www.atvsafety.org, or call the ATV Safety Institute at (800) 887-2887.

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